

February 26, 2009

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:

www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

This is your chance to stay informed and involved! Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed

The County Council is responsible for adopting the laws of the County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Fiscal Year – 2010! – How You Can Participate in the Howard County Budget Process!

It's budget season! The County Council would like to hear from you on the proposed FY 2010 budget. Your participation is encouraged and valued. You may testify in person at the scheduled budget public hearings or submit written testimony to the Council during the FY2010 budget process.

Below you will find the budget calendar for FY2010:

****Unless otherwise noted, public hearings and legislative sessions will be held at the Board of Education. Work sessions will be held in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room at 8930 Stanford Blvd. Columbia****

Monday March 9, 6:30 p.m.

*(C. Vernon Gray Conference Room)

Council meets with Planning Board and Board of Education

Re: recommendations and requests

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing - Capital Budget

Police

Fire

Library

Recreation & Parks

Community Renewal (housing)

Agricultural Preservation

Public Works

General County

Sewer

Water

Storm Drainage
Transportation
 Bridges
 Road Resurfacing
 Road Construction
 Sidewalk/curb
 Intersection Improvements

Monday, April 20, 5:30 p.m.

County Executive's Presentation of the Budget

Monday, April 20, 6:00 p.m.

Hearing- Capital and Operating Budgets

Department Heads testimony only

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Tuesday, April 21, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Friday, April 24, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session- Capital Budget (if needed)

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing - Operating Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing – Capital & Operating Budgets

Board of Education

Libraries

Community College

Monday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

Constant Yield Hearing

Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Session –

Introduce budget related legislation

Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session - Operating Budget

Legislative and Judicial
Public Safety (Police, Fire)
Public Facilities

Friday, May 8, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session- Capital and Operating Budgets

Board of Education

Friday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets

Libraries

Friday, May 8, 2:00 p.m.

Work Session – Capital and Operating Budgets

Community College

Monday, May 11, 3:00 p.m.

Work Session

Community Services, Funds/Revenues

Tuesday, May 12, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session –Operating Budget

General Government

Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 p.m.

*(C. Vernon Gray Conference Room)

Public Hearing – General

Friday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session (if needed)

Pending Issues

Monday, May 18, 4:30 p.m.

Work Session (if needed)

Education

Monday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Public Hearing

Including budget related legislation

Wednesday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.

Legislative Session

Adopt Budget

Report an Illegal Sign

You can help us by reporting Illegal Signs with a new online form. The form is available at the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/Permits/Permits_signs_Illegal.asp.

Please be sure to describe the location of the illegal sign in the free-form textual area at the bottom of the form.

For further information on the County's sign code, the sign permit application process, sign sizes, fees and for other answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Department of Inspections, Licenses & Permits page on the County's website http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/DILP_HomePage.htm or call DILP at 410-313-1830.

Pardon Our Dust!

You may have seen or may see some road work in your neighborhood. Howard County Department of Public Works will be conducting the following construction projects. Additional information is provided below describing the details of such projects.

Village of Long Reach Traffic Calming Construction to Begin

A Howard County construction project to provide traffic calming on Tamar Drive in Columbia is scheduled to begin on or about **Monday, February 2**. A total of three flat-top traffic calming tables will be installed on Tamar Drive between Old Montgomery Road and Saddle Drive. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by late **February 2009**.

Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed, and signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction during construction hours, weekdays from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

For questions or concerns about **Capital Project T-7076**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440**, or by e-mail to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov

Planning Board Hearing Schedule for Columbia ZRA's!

The normal Planning Board alternate Thursdays schedule has been modified to address the Downtown General Plan Amendment – ZRA 113, as well as other cases. For detailed meeting information, please refer to the Planning Board Agenda. **The Board's role is advisory to the County Council (Rules of Procedure—Section 1.108).**

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 5th, (6:00 PM) - ZRA 113- Continuation of Public Testimony

Tyson 2 Room

County Offices, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia

****Electronic Sign-Up for Testimony****

Wednesday, March 12, 2009 (7:00 PM) – ZRA 102- Continuation –
Tyson 2 Room, County Offices, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia

ZRA 102 -Wilde Lake Business Trust – Village Center Redevelopment
<http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA102.pdf>

Technical Staff Report

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA102TSR.pdf>

ZRA 113 - Submitted by the Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty at the request of General Growth Properties, Inc. (amend 2000 General Plan and Zoning Regulations related to Downtown Columbia)

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CCdocs/ZRA113.pdf>

Technical Staff Report:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA113StaffReport.pdf>

Appendices:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA113Appendices.pdf>

Comments or testimony may be mailed or e-mailed to planningboard@howardcountymd.gov up to the day prior to the scheduled public meeting.

Special needs requests should be submitted 3 working days prior to the meeting. For more information, contact **Bob Lalush at (410) 313-2350**

Free Tax Services Available to Low & Middle Income Residents through April 15th!

Free tax preparation is now available to eligible low and middle income residents. **Through April 15** Howard County Senior Centers will serve as the site for **free federal and state tax preparation for Maryland taxpayers**. The service is provided by the AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Comptroller of Maryland and other state partners.

For information on locations and times, to schedule an appointment or confirm eligibility, Howard County residents should call **410-313-7387**.

In addition, the AARP Tax-Aide Program will sponsor a special "Maryland Tax Day" on Saturday, **February 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia**. No appointments are required for this one-day-only event; clients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge.

For proof of eligibility, those wishing to take advantage of this free tax preparation service should bring a copy of their 2007 tax return, a photo ID, Social Security cards for themselves and any dependents and their 2008 tax information. The free service covers personal returns only; no out-of-state returns or returns involving farms, businesses, rental properties or partnerships. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance.

In addition, free year-round assistance on the Internet allows taxpayers to pose tax questions to on-line assistants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from the website www.aarp.org/taxaide.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Observance Event – February 28th!

The HIV/AIDS Awareness Day observance event will take place on **Saturday, February 28th** at the **Columbia Teen Center 5853 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, from 9am – 4pm**. The program will feature HIV/AIDS 101, Living with AIDS: Straight Talk by a Person Living With AIDS, Dramatic Presentations by Soul Inspiration and the Jacaranda Center for Family and Youth Development, Inc., as well as Strategies to Mobilize At-Risk Groups to Take Action. Simultaneous Educational Sessions for middle schoolers, high schoolers, parents, adults and seniors. Free and anonymous HIV/AIDS testing will be available, with results in 20 minutes. **Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served**. For additional information or to pre-register call **(410) 719-9630**. ***Parental permission slips are required for attendees under 18.**

This event *is* sponsored by St. John Baptist Church of Columbia, MD, Mt. Pisgah AME Church of Columbia, MD, the Columbia, MD Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Howard County Office on Aging, the Howard County Health Department, and the Columbia Teen Center under the auspices of the Horizon Foundation Community Health Issues Program (CHIP) Grant.

Department of Fire and Rescue Services Community Focus Group March 3rd!

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services invites members of the community to participate in one of two community focus groups. These sessions are the first step in the Department's effort to develop a community-driven strategic plan to help better meet the needs of citizens. **Space is limited to 100 participants** for each session and while registration is preferred, it is not required. To register, please contact the Department at **410-313-6000** between the hours of **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, Monday through Friday. Alternately, registration may be made through email to focus@howardcountymd.gov by providing your name, community affiliation and the session you plan to attend.

Session 1 will be held at **Howard Community College's Gateway Campus**, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia from **12 to 1 pm**.

Session 2 will be held at the **Glenwood Community Center**, 2400 Rt. 97, Cooksville from **7 to 8 pm**.

Teen Job & Volunteer Fair – March 7th!

HC DrugFree's annual Teen Job & Volunteer Fair will be held on **Saturday, March 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Long Reach High School**. This high-energy event is a great place to look for jobs, volunteer opportunities, law enforcement and military careers, camps, sports, classes, and services. This year's Teen Fair, sponsored by Howard County General Hospital, will be even bigger and better than last year's (which had an attendance of over 1,000 teens and 500 parents!) We'll be holding our annual "Dress for Success" Fashion shows (if your teen would like to be a model at the show, please send an email to hcdrugfree@yahoo.com) and workshops on interviewing for a job and filling out job applications

New this year, with funding from the Horizon Foundation, the Teen Fair will highlight a wide range of health-related resources and personal services that

are aimed at helping teens and their parents. During the Teen Fair, dance and karate classes will perform in the school's central atrium.

Latino Health Fair Sponsored By Howard County General Hospital – March 15th!

Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine presents the fourth **Latino Health Fair on Saturday, March 15 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center in Columbia, Maryland.** Co-sponsored by Priority Partners, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, the Howard County Health Department and Alianza de la Comunidad, the event offers the following:

- Blood pressure screening
- Hearing and vision screening
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Skin analyzer screening
- Glucose and cholesterol screening
- Stroke awareness education
- Dental screening for children
- Clinical breast exam
- HIV testing
- Education about diabetes, nutrition and physical activity
- Mental health information
- Health educational materials in Spanish
- Refreshments
- Giveaways

For more information, you may call **410-740-7696**.

County Executive's FY2010 Citizen's Budget Hearings – March 18th and 19th!

County Executive Ken Ulman is inviting citizens to share their budget priorities at his citizens' budget meeting for the FY2010 budget cycle on **March 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City.** Those who wish to testify at the meeting must sign-

up in person and do so individually. One person signing up multiple people to testify will not be permitted. **Sign-up will begin at 6:30 p.m.**, and testimony will be heard on a first-to-sign-up, first-to-speak basis. For those residents who would like to present their testimony via the internet, the form is available on-line by clicking on a link on the home page of the County's web site, www.howardcountymd.gov. Citizens are reminded that testimony submitted via the internet is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. For more information you may contact the **Budget Office at (410) 313-2077**.

On **March 19th** at the **The Bain Center, (5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia)** the County Executive will have a special citizens' budget hearing to give residents who may find it difficult to attend the usual nighttime budget hearings, an opportunity to share their budget priorities and concerns at a more convenient time of day. **Sign-up for those wishing to testify will begin at 12:30 p.m.**, and testimony will be heard on a first-to-sign-up, first-to-speak basis **starting at 1pm**. For those residents who would like to present their testimony via the internet, the form is available on-line by clicking on a link on the home page of the County's web site, www.howardcountymd.gov. For more information you may contact the **Budget Office at (410) 313-2077**.

Family Talk: Positive Parenting Seminars are Now Available!

Howard County's Office of Children's Services in partnership with Maryland Family Magazine are sponsoring Family Talk workshops. Each workshop will discuss various family topics. For more information you may call the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940**. Click here for a list of upcoming workshops!

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/OCS/OCSDocs/PositiveParentingSeminarsJanMar08.pdf>

Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program -Upcoming Events!

Long Term Living: Covering the Cost

Extra costs for long-term care may be part of your future. These costs may include in-home care, assisted living, and/or nursing home care. Long-term insurance is one way to prepare for some of these costs, but not the only way. Explore the often-confusing realm of long-term care insurance and consider the ultimate question of whether to buy or not. Discussions are led by representatives of the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program, Howard County Office on Aging. For questions or to pre-register, please call 410-313-7391. No fee.

**Wed., April 1, 2009 11:00 am Kiwanis Wallas Recreation Center
10481 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
21042**

What You Can Expect From Medicare: MEDICARE 101

Are you currently on Medicare or soon will be? Do you help someone who has Medicare as his or her health insurance? This workshop reviews how Medicare works, what the benefits are, and how it relates to supplemental health insurance. Information on the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage will also be covered. Sponsored by the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Howard County Office on Aging.

For questions or to pre-register, please call **410-313-7391. No fee.**

**Wed., March 4, 2009 11:00 am Kiwanis Wallas Recreation
10481 Frederick Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042**

Why Medicare Isn't Enough! – Medicare 102

This workshop focuses on the gaps in Medicare coverage. Take a look at the ways in which Medicare gaps can be covered. Get your questions answered and find out whether you have the insurance package that best suits your needs. Discussion includes information on prescription drug resources and Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. Sponsored by the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Howard County Office on Aging. Register by calling 410-313-7391. No fee.

Wed., Mar. 18, 2009

11:00 am

Kiwanis Wallas Recreation
10481 Frederick Rd
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Spirit of Columbia Scholarship

The CA Scholarship Program offers up to six \$2,500 education awards to graduating high school seniors who exhibit exceptional efforts in providing community service in the Columbia area. Students who attend Howard County public or private school, live in Columbia, and maintain a C average, are eligible to apply for the scholarship award.

<http://www.columbiaassociation.com/pdfs/getinvolved/SpiritOfColumbiaApplication.pdf>

Application deadline is March 16th, 2009.

The Volunteer Center Serving Howard County Offers New Volunteer Training Courses

On behalf of the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, please consider adding the following trainings to your schedule to further enhance our community's resilience.

The Volunteer Center, at the request of Howard County's Department of Citizen Services, will assist with the registration and referral of these spontaneous volunteers to requesting registered agencies. Community

volunteers are being trained to help with this process. Might you be interested? If you are willing to assist with the coordination of human resources, call **410-715-3179** or email pam@volunteerhoward.org to register or to obtain more information.

April 2009

CERT – Citizen Emergency Readiness Training

James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center
2200 Scott Wheeler Drive - Marriottsville

For registration or more information go to:

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/FAR/far_cert.htm or contact Rich Philips at rphilps@howardcountymd.gov or call **443-472-8212**

Thursday, April 16 - Session 1 -Personal Preparedness (7-10 pm)

Saturday, April 18 - Saturday - mirror of Session 1 (8-11 am)

Tuesday, April 21 - Session 2 - ASHI First Aid, part 1 (7-10 pm)

Thursday, April 23 - Session 3 - ASHI First Aid, part 2 (7-10 pm)

Saturday, April 25 - mirror of Sessions 2 & 3 (8-11am and 12:30-3:30 pm)

Tuesday, April 28 - Session 4 Disaster Recovery, part 1 (7-10 pm)

Thursday, April 30 - Session 5 Disaster Recovery, part 2 (7– 10 pm)

Saturday, May 2- mirror of Sessions 4 & 5 (8-11am and 12:30-3:30 pm)

Saturday, April 25 from 10am – 2pm – Ready When the Time Comes

Call **410-715-3179** or email pam@volunteerhoward.org to register or to obtain more information.

For additional information on volunteer opportunities or to view a copy of the Volunteer Center's Guide to Giving visit www.volunteerhoward.org

Rebuilding Together Howard County is Now Accepting Applications for Free Home Repairs!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is currently accepting applications from HoCo homeowners who are financially unable to make necessary repairs on their homes. All work is provided **Free of Charge**. Applications will be accepted through January and repair work will be completed during National Rebuilding Day on **April 25, 2009**. This is a wonderful opportunity! For

more information and to fill out an application form, please visit
<http://www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org/index.shtml>

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community, designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information please contact the Howard County Police Department **at 410-313-2200**.

Make a Difference for a Howard County Senior!

Be a Neighbor Ride volunteer driver and make a difference to a Howard County senior. Daytime, evening and weekend volunteer opportunities are available. Seniors are able to maintain their quality of life by attending activities when transportation is available.

Please contact **Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433)** or
volunteer@neighborride.org for more information or to volunteer.

Blandair Regional Park News!

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board unanimously voted to adopt the proposed 2008 Blandair Master Plan. The consultant will now move towards the design phase of this project. The Master Plan is scheduled for submittal to the Department of Planning and Zoning in July 2009. To view the full project schedule please click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_BlandairRegPark.htm

Thank you to the Blandair Advisory Committee for all of their hard work and dedication, especially those members who represented the residents and communities in council district 2.

To view the proposed plan click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAPDocs/2008_Blandair_Master_Plan.pdf

You are encouraged to participate in the planning process of Blandair. To submit comments, questions or concerns via email you may contact rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov . Written comments may be submitted to **Gary J. Arthur, Director, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia MD 21046.**

A Message from the Howard County Health Department!

As a result of the death this week of a Howard County teenager due to influenza, the Health Department is encouraging citizens to take steps to protect against the flu and to know the warning signs that require urgent medical attention.

Deaths among young people from the flu are extremely rare (CDC reports only nine confirmed pediatric influenza deaths in the U.S. this year) but Health Officer, Dr. Peter Beilenson reminds all County residents it is still advisable to get a flu shot and noted that free flu shots are available at the Howard County Health Department by calling **410-313-7500**.

For more information about the flu, visit the CDC's website at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Dr. Calvin Ball

Council Member, District 2

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm

410-313-2001

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can." George Bernard Shaw